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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG PRESENTS:
KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GUEST STARRING:
PRINCESS Sally
DIRECT EDITION
PENDERS
GALAN '98

KNUCKLES™

BOOK TWENTY-NINE

MY SPECIAL FRIEND

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!

Archie Comics and SEGA present...
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

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Almost a lifetime ago, while still a very young girl, her Royal Highness Princess Sally met and befriended a young echidna lad known as Knuckles. Though circumstance would infrequently bring them together over the subsequent years, the bonds between them remained secure and steadfast. Thus has it always been, until now...

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HOW COULD YOU--?!!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND--

--AND YOU DON'T SEE FIT TO *TELL ME* YOU WERE GOING ON A MISSION TO *FIND MY BROTHER* I *DIDN'T* KNOW I *HAD*?!!*

ANTOINE!! HOW CAN I EVER *TRUST* YOU *AGAIN*?!

*KNUCKLES #19 --JFG.

IT WAS NOT *MY* PLACE TO TELL YOU!

"BUT *SOMEONE ELSE* SHOULD'VE DONE SO!"

Ahhh, SALLY!

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO *SEND* FOR YOU!

NO! I GUESS IT *WASN'T*!

YOU MUST HAVE READ MY *MIND*, FATHER!

WE *HAVE* TO *TALK*!

I CAN WELL IMAGINE OVER WHAT!

IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT, HOWEVER! WE MUST--

NO, FATHER! NOT THIS TIME! NOT UNTIL YOU'VE HEARD ME OUT!

VERY WELL! SPEAK!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN, FATHER!

IT'S LIKE YOU'VE BEEN A STRANGER TO ME FOR SO LONG!

ORDERS THAT SEEMED HARSH AND VINDICTIVE--*

--DEMANDING THAT I MARRY ANTOINE--**

--AND NOW LEARNING YOU'VE KEPT MY OWN BROTHER A SECRET FROM ME!

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LOVING, CARING FATHER I USED TO KNOW?

* LIKE DISMANTLING THE ROBIANS IN SONIC #55.
** IN SONIC #60--HISTORY JFG.

HE'S STILL HERE-- DEEP WITHIN!

AND HE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT YOU-- PROTECT EVERYONE--FROM A FATE HE HOPED COULD BE AVERTED!

UNFORTUNATELY FOR EVERYONE--

--I FAILED ALL OF YOU!

BUT OUT OF THE ASHES OF DESPAIR, HOWEVER, HOPE MAY YET SHINE FORTH--

"--AND I BELIEVE THE *SOURCE* CAN BE FOUND ON THE *FLOATING ISLAND*!"

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND *HERE* IN QUITE SOME TIME!

I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE *CITY SLICKER* ON ME!

KNUCKLES IN My Special Friend

Guest Starring... PRINCESS Sally

CATWEAZLE! YOU MANGY OLD BIRD!

I GUESS I HAVE BEEN HANGING IN ECHIDNAOPOLIS MORE THAN I SHOULD--

--CONSIDERING I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND!

WHY? DOES ANYONE HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT IT?

YOU MEAN ABOUT THE DINGOES *PARTYING* UNTIL DAWN-- ECHIDNA DEVELOPERS *BUILDING* IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS--

--AND OVERLANDERS *FIGHTING* OVER US AS IF WE WERE SOME *TROPHY*?

WHAT'S TO *COMPLAIN* ABOUT? THIS IS *PARADISE*, REMEMBER?

VER-RY FUNNY!

I'D *RATHER* DEAL WITH DISRUPTIVE *DINGOES* THAN FAMILY PROBLEMS *ANY* DAY!

FAMILY PROBLEMS, EH? SAY *NO* MORE!

I'VE AN *UNCLE* WHO CAN NEVER GET HIS *LAZY* A--

CATWEAZLE!

I'M NOT THE ONE *WITH* THE PROBLEMS! *THEY* ARE!

I ONLY HAVE TO *DEAL* WITH THEM!

YOU HAVEN'T DEALT WITH ANYONE UNTIL YOU'VE DEALT WITH MY SISTER, *EGGMUFFIN*!

NOW *THERE'S* A REAL *SHREW*!

I HAVEN'T ANY *BROTHERS* OR *SISTERS* TO GET ME *AGGRAVATED*!

YOU MEAN, *YET*!

COME AGAIN?

I HEARD YOUR *MOTHER* IS *REMARRYING*, KNUCKLES!

I ALSO HEARD HER *INTENDED* IS QUITE THE *CATCH*!

HE'S *OKAY*!

SO WHAT'S YOUR *POINT*?

IT'S NOT UNFEASIBLE THAT THEY MAY WANT A *RUGRAT* OF THEIR OWN!

SO WHAT IF THEY *DO*!

THAT'S NOT A NICE ATTITUDE FOR YOU TO TAKE, M'BOY!

YOU MEAN I HAVE A *CHOICE*?

ANYWAY, WHAT'S THAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT THE *OVERLANDERS*?

WELL, WE *THINK* IT *MAY* BE THE OVERLANDERS!

THERE HAVE BEEN SIGHTINGS OF *STRANGE EGG-SHAPED PODS* FLYING BY!

EGG-SHAPED PODS, EH?

THAT SURE DOES SOUND *SICKENINGLY* FAMILIAR!

HAVE YOU *SEEN* ONE YOURSELF?

YOU BET!

AND IF YOU *LOOK* OVER YONDER--

1999 PlayStation/Nabisco Cool Bus Sweepstakes
Official Rules

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1. You must have your parent's permission to play! **To enter** from a touch-tone phone only from 7/1/99 through 10/31/99, call 1-877-99COOLBUS (1-877-992-6652). When calling, you will need to provide the last 5 digits of the UPC # found on the Brand Seal on participating Nabisco packages, and your home phone #, including area code. Calls must originate from within the 50 United States, including Wash. D.C. Computer generated calls not accepted. Limit 2 calls per UPC, per phone #.

   No Purchase Necessary—For complete rules, toll-free entry #, prize list, and a qualifying UPC, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: PlayStation®/Nabisco Request, P.O. Box 3844, Dept. A, St. Cloud, MN 56397-3844, to be received by 10/15/99 (limit 1 request per outer mailing envelope, WA & VT residents omit return postage), or call 1-800-248-6592 between 10/1/99 & 10/31/99 ONLY. Information line will only be open during time period specified.

2. Overall every tenth valid call wins instantly, up to a maximum of 2,000,000 valid calls accepted. Prizes will be awarded via random intercepts of calls during program period based on every tenth valid call. All prizes claimed for the actual number of valid calls received, up to a maximum of 2,000,000, will be awarded. All winners will be notified that they have won during call, & will be notified by mail within 8-10 weeks of winning call. All prizes will be awarded by 12/31/99, except for the Ultimate Prize, which will be scheduled for delivery by 5/31/00. Random intercepts and notification are under supervision of Carlson Draddy & Associates, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final.

3. Prizes & approximate retail values: Ultimate Prize (1)—Appearance at winner's school of the PlayStation Truck, plus one each Grand Prize through Tenth Prize, including both music CD's. Note: The PlayStation vehicle is **not** included in the prize. (PlayStation vehicle delivery of Ultimate Prize **not** available to callers from AK and HI. If Ultimate Prize winner is from either state, winner gets all PlayStation, Sony and Nabisco prizes included in Ultimate Prize by mail, and another caller will be selected at random for full Ultimate Prize.) (ARV: $1,139.66, odds 1:2,000,000). Grand Prize (100)—PlayStation game console, 10 PlayStation video games (determined by SCEA), one Dual Shock™ Analog Controller, two memory cards, one Multi Tap for the PlayStation game console, one year PlayStation Underground Magazine subscription and one $25.00 PlayStation Threadz catalog gift certificate. (ARV: $715.00, odds 1:20,000). 1st Prize (300)—One PlayStation game console and one PlayStation video game (either Spyro the Dragon™, Crash Bandicoot: WARPED™ or Gran Turismo™, determined by SCEA and Sponsor). (ARV: $170.00, odds 1:6,667). 2nd Prize (100)—Psyc™ Discman® portable CD player. (ARV: $110.00, odds 1:20,000). 3rd Prize (1,000)—One PlayStation video game (either Spyro the Dragon, Crash Bandicoot: WARPED or Gran Turismo, determined by SCEA). (ARV: $40.00, odds 1:2,000). 4th Prize (1,000)—One Dual Shock™ Analog Controller. (ARV: $30.00, odds 1:2,000). 5th Prize (5,000)—Sony Music artist CD (either Tatyana Ali or B*Witched, determined by Sponsor). (ARV: $16.98, odds 1:400). 6th Prize (2,500)—PlayStation branded hat (ARV: $15.00, odds 1:800). 7th Prize (10,000)—One memory card for the PlayStation game console. (ARV: $15.00, odds 1:200). 8th Prize (10,000)—PlayStation branded dog tag. (ARV: $5.00, odds 1:200). 9th Prize (120,000)—PlayStation Collectable Hint Line card (ARV: $5.00, odds 1:17). 10th Prize (50,000)—Free coupon for Nabisco Cookie or Cracker single serve size. (ARV: $0.70, odds 1:40). Total # of prizes: 200,001; total ARV: $1,162,039.66; total odds of winning 1:10.

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"--THERE'S ONE *NOW*!"

I FEEL *AWFUL*, NICOLE! I SHOULD *NEVER* HAVE *DOUBTED* MY FATHER!

THE KING'S EXPERIENCES WITH TEMPORAL ANOMALIES WHILE TRAPPED IN THE VOID WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS EXPLAINING HIS UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR!

TAKE HIS ORDERS TO DISMANTLE THE ROBOTICIZED MOBIAN CITIZENRY AS AN EXAMPLE!

I ALREADY HAVE!

FROM HIS POINT-OF-VIEW, MY FATHER SAW A POTENTIALLY *FATAL* PROBLEM AND OFFERED UP AN ARGUABLY *PRAGMATIC* SOLUTION!

HE *KNEW* ROBOTNIK-MACH 2 WOULD USE THEM *AGAINST* US AND TRIED TO *PREVENT* THAT!

AND WERE I HIM, AND IF I KNEW WHAT *HE* KNEW--

--AT THIS MOMENT, I'M NOT SO SURE I *WOULDN'T* HAVE DONE THE *SAME* THING!

AT THIS MOMENT, SALLY, THE THING TO DO NOW IS ACTIVATE THE BEACON SIGNAL--

"--ALLOWING THOSE WHO, ACCORDING TO THE KING, SAFEGUARD THE FLOATING ISLAND TO DISTINGUISH US AS A FRIEND INSTEAD OF A FOE!"

BEEP! BEEP!

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, THUNDERHAWK?

DESPITE THE *NATURE* OF THE APPROACHING AIRCRAFT, THAT *IS* THE *ROYAL IDENTIFICATION SIGNAL* WE'RE RECEIVING!

RECOMMENDATION?

THE ODDS ARE *AGAINST* AN ENEMY KNOWING *KING ACORN'S PERSONAL SIGNAL* WITH US, THEREFORE--

--IT'S MORE THAN LIKELY THE *PILOT* IS EITHER THE *KING* HIMSELF OR HIS *EMISSARY*!

AGREED. I'M NOW SENDING THE *AFFIRMATIVE* RESPONSE.

AND NOW WE SIT BACK AND AWAIT THE *REPLY*!

HELLO, KNUCKLES!

SALLY!

HOW COULD YOU ?!!

HAVING A BAD HAIR DAY, SALLY?

THAT ISN'T FUNNY, KNUCKLES!

HOW SHALLOW DO YOU THINK I AM?

I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO PRIMP AND PREEN AND YOU KNOW IT!

EVEN AFTER I FELL INTO THAT CHEMICAL VAT WHILE ON A MISSION--

--I DIDN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT WHAT IT DID TO MY APPEARANCE--

--ANY MORE THAN I DID OVER ALL THOSE BATHS I SPENT SCRUBBING THE TOXINS OUT OF MY FUR!*

*AND HERE YOU THOUGHT WE COLORED SALLY THE WRONG SHADES ALL THOSE YEARS AGO --SETTING-THE-RECORD-STRAIGHT JUSTIN.

SO DON'T GO BLAMING MY ATTITUDE ON A BAD HAIR DAY OR ANYTHING ELSE, MISTER LET'S-KEEP-A-SECRET ECHIDNA!

HUH?

SECRET? WHAT SECRET?!!

MY MOTHER, YOU CLOD!

YOU KNOW-- THE ONE WHO WAS KEPT IN COLD STORAGE ON THIS VERY ISLAND!

RING ANY BELLS, NOW?

I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS HERE, SALLY!

I HONESTLY DIDN'T KNOW!

I'M AS MUCH, IF NOT MORE, IN THE DARK ABOUT THINGS AROUND HERE!

IT'S ONLY RECENTLY I'VE STARTED TO UNCOVER WHAT'S WHAT AND WHO'S WHO!

HAD I KNOWN, YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'D HAVE TOLD!

HOW WOULD I KNOW?

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA OF WHAT MY REAL MISSION HERE IS?

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE!

I'M HERE TO SEE YOUR RELATIVES--THE BROTHERHOOD OF HAVEN--

--WITH THE INTENT OF ENLISTING THEIR AID AGAINST ROBO-ROBOTNIK!*

* CHECK OUT THE CURRENT ISSUES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG --JUSTIN.

YOU KNOW ABOUT HAVEN?

NOW WHO'S KEEPING SECRETS FROM WHOM?!

MY FATHER, APPARENTLY! HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME!

YOUR FATHER? HOW WOULD HE KNOW?

I'M NOT SURE!

FATHER TELLS ME ONLY WHAT HE FEELS I SHOULD KNOW WHEN I SHOULD!

I KNOW THAT STORY ALL TOO WELL!

WHAT KIND OF HELP DO YOU NEED?

MORE THAN YOU ALONE COULD HANDLE, KNUCKLES!

HUH?

BAMF!

GREETINGS, YOUR HIGHNESS!

I BID YOU WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE BROTHERHOOD AND ALL WHO RESIDE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

SPECTRE!

AND DEO VOLENTE!

YOU MEAN YOU GUYS KNEW THE PRINCESS WAS COMING?

NOT AT ALL!

WE DO, HOWEVER, HAVE THE RESOURCES TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO ANY GIVEN SITUATION!

WE UNDERSTAND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE--

-- AND SINCE THERE IS MUCH TO DISCUSS--

-- SHALL WE PROCEED TO HAVEN?

BAMF!

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT TO YOU--THE ASSEMBLED BROTHERHOOD OF HAVEN--

--IN DESCENDING ORDER OF SENIORITY AFTER MYSELF--

MY SON, SOJOURNER--

--HIS SON, THUNDERHAWK--

--HIS GREAT-GRANDSON, SABRE--

AS WELL AS HIS SON, LOCKE--WHO IS ALSO KNUCKLES' FATHER!

I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US WHEN I SAY THIS IS, INDEED, A HIGH HONOR!

AND IF I MAY BE PERMITTED A MORE PERSONAL OBSERVATION--

--THE LITTLE GIRL I OBSERVED YEARS AGO HAS GROWN INTO QUITE THE YOUNG LADY!

GENTLEMEN, WHILE I WISH MY VISIT WAS UNDER MORE PLEASANT CIRCUMSTANCES--

--I'M HERE ON THE REQUEST OF MY KING TO DISCUSS A MATTER OF GREAT URGENCY!

BY ALL MEANS, YOUR HIGHNESS, IF YOU'LL COME THIS WAY--

--WE CAN CONVENE IN THE *CONFERENCE ROOM*!

I TRUST THE *FACILITIES* MEET WITH YOUR *APPROVAL*!

THIS WILL DO VERY WELL! THANK YOU!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SON?

YOU SEEM QUITE *DISTRESSED*!

WHAT DO I *SAY*, DAD?

THAT BECAUSE YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE KEPT *SECRETS* FROM ME, IT NOW *AFFECTS* MY FRIENDS, TOO?

YOU WERE *NEVER* MEANT TO BE *FRIENDS* WITH THE PRINCESS, KNUCKLES!

MAYBE THAT WAS AN *INCORRECT* DECISION ON MY PART, BUT I WAS USING *PAST* HISTORY AS MY *GUIDE*!

SO, I *DON'T* HAVE ANY SAY WHO I CAN *HAVE* AS FRIENDS?

NOT IN THIS CASE!

SHE'S *POSSIBLY* GOING TO BE THE *LEADER* OF HER PEOPLE!

HER *BEST* INTERESTS MAY *NOT* COINCIDE WITH *YOURS*!

HOW SO?

"HER PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO PEACEFULLY CO-EXIST WITH THOSE WHO WOULD *PREY* ON THEM, THUS LEAVING THEMSELVES OPEN TO *ATTACK*!

"INSTEAD OF TAKING WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY TO *PREVENT* THIS, THEY END UP IN A CONSTANT STATE OF *WAR*!"

... AND IF *ROBO-ROBOTNIK*--(OR ROBOTNIK MACH 2, OR WHATEVER HE CALLS HIMSELF)--SUCCEEDS WITH HIS *PLANS*, THEN *NO ONE* ON MOBIUS WILL BE *SAFE*!

THEREFORE, I *IMPLORE* YOU FOR YOUR *ASSISTANCE* IN DEFEATING THIS *MALEVOLENT* FORCE!

ON A MORE *PERSONAL* LEVEL, OUR ROYAL PHYSICIAN IS HAVING *DIFFICULTY* MAINTAINING LIFE SUPPORT FOR MY *MOTHER*, QUEEN ACORN--

--SO, IF THERE IS *ANYTHING* YOU CAN DO TO *ALLEVIATE* HER CONDITION, WE'D BE *IMMENSELY* GRATEFUL!

BEFORE WE DISCUSS YOUR *INITIAL REQUEST*, REGARDING THE CONDITION OF YOUR MOTHER--

--WE KEPT HER ALIVE THROUGH METHODS *COMPATIBLE* WITH *ECHIDNA PHYSIOLOGY*!

THERE WAS--IS--NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO FOR HER! I'M SORRY!

AS FOR YOUR *CURRENT* PREDICAMENT WITH THE *DESPOT* ROBO-ROBOTNIK--

--ARE YOUR PEOPLE WILLING TO *ENGAGE* HIM USING *EVERY MEANS AVAILABLE*--

-- INCLUDING THE *LATEST* IN *MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY*?

YOU KNOW I *CAN'T* AGREE TO *THAT*, BROTHER SPECTRE!

IF THAT IS TO BE YOUR *FINAL* WORD, YOUR HIGHNESS--

"--YOUR PETITION IS DENIED!"

CREE-EEAAK!

EH?

KNUCKLES!

HOW ARE YOU, LAD?

BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE BEEN AROUND!

MOTHER WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

I HAVE TO ADMIT, I'VE MISSED HER COOKING--

--BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME!

I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME IF PRINCESS SALLY IS HERE!

THE SUNSET SURE IS *BEAUTIFUL!*

I HADN'T NOTICED!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOU LEFT IN A BIT OF A *HURRY* BACK THERE!

WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO EVEN TALK!

TALK ABOUT *WHAT?*

YOUR RELATIVES DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS MUCH TO SAY!

YEAH--WELL-- I'M *NOT* MY RELATIVES!

I *STILL* DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

YEAH-- *RIGHT!*

Y'KNOW--

--OUT OF EVERYONE I KNOW OF--

--I FIGURED *YOU*, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, WOULD *UNDERSTAND*!

AFTER ALL, DID *YOUR FATHER* TELL YOU *EVERYTHING* WHEN YOU WERE *GROWING UP*?

NO.

HE DIDN'T.

ALL RIGHT, SO *WHERE* DOES THAT LEAVE *US*?

I DUNNO, SAL!

ALL I KNOW IS--

--EVEN THOUGH THINGS ARE MORE *COMPLICATED* NOW--

--I'M *STILL* YOUR *FRIEND*!

THAT'S GOTTA *COUNT* FOR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

I USED TO THINK SO BEFORE!
NOW--I'M NOT SO SURE!
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY--
--IT'S A STRANGE WORLD OUT THERE--
--BUT AS LONG AS YOU KNOW WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE--
--YOU CAN GET THROUGH ANYTHING!
HOW ELSE DO YOU THINK I GOT THROUGH SOME VERY LONELY DAYS WHEN I WAS GROWING UP?
I HAD YOU FOR A FRIEND--
-- SOMEONE I COULD SHARE THINGS WITH--
--NOT TO MENTION SOMEONE I COULD RELATE TO!
REMEMBER ALL THOSE LONG AFTERNOONS WE'D PLAY GAMES AND TALK ABOUT STUFF?
HOW COULD I FORGET!
SO, HOW CAN YOU HONESTLY THINK I WOULD'VE KEPT THE NEWS OF YOUR MOTHER A SECRET, HAD I KNOWN?

WHAT CAN I SAY?

I DIDN'T SEE YOU LEND YOUR SUPPORT WHEN I WAS ASKING FOR HELP BACK THERE!

WHAT COULD I DO, SAL?

I'M STILL A NOVICE AS FAR AS THAT GROUP IS CONCERNED!

I CAN'T BUCK THE SYSTEM ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN!

IT'S DIFFERENT SINCE ELIAS RETURNED!

GOODY FOR YOU!

IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME FOR ME, TOO!

SALLY, I FULLY BELIEVE THE BROTHERHOOD SHOULD JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST ROBO-ROBOTNIK!

YOU DO?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SILLY?

OF COURSE I DO--

--BUT I CAN'T CONVINCE THEM UNTIL I FIGURE OUT HOW TO COUNTER OVER 400 YEARS OF ECHIDNA HISTORY AND TRADITION!

SO, WHAT DO WE DO IN THE MEANTIME WHILE YOU PLAY APPRENTICE?

THEY SURE DIDN'T SPEAK MUCH OVER DINNER, MOTHER!

NOT LIKE *LAST* TIME!

THIS IS *TERRIBLE*, FATHER!

THEY'RE JUST *KIDS*!

THEY SHOULD BE *LAUGHING* AND HAVING *FUN*--

"--NOT *FIGHTING* WARS AND *CARRYING* THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON THEIR SHOULDERS!"

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY, SAL!

I'M *STILL* THE *SAME* ECHIDNA YOU'VE *ALWAYS* KNOWN!

MAYBE *THAT'S* THE *PROBLEM*, AND MAYBE I SHOULD'VE SEEN IT *BEFORE*!

YOU DIDN'T *JOIN* US BACK WHEN WE *ASKED* YOU TO--*

*WAY BACK WHEN IN SONIC & KNUCKLES SPECIAL #1-- BACK-ISSUE EDITOR.

--AND IT'S *OBVIOUS* YOU STILL *WOULDN'T*, EVEN NOW!

HOW CAN WE STILL *BE* FRIENDS AFTER THAT?

I STOOD AND WATCHED LONG AFTER SALLY WAS BEYOND MY SIGHT, RESENTING THE FACT THAT THE VERY REASONS WHICH BROUGHT US TOGETHER WERE NOW TEARING US APART.

I COULDN'T BLAME HER FOR FEELING THE WAY SHE DID, AND YET, I HAD TO ADMIT MY DAD AND THE OTHERS HAD EQUALLY VALID REASONS TO SUPPORT THEIR POSITION.

HOW CAN I CHOOSE? MY *SPECIAL FRIEND*? OR MY *FAMILY*?

IF BOTH WERE RIGHT, WHERE DID THAT LEAVE *ME*?

EVERYONE HAS TO DEAL WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD BULLY AT SOME POINT WHILE GROWING UP, AND KNUCKLES WAS NO EXCEPTION! BE HERE NEXT MONTH TO MEET THE ONE FOE THAT CHALLENGES OUR FAVORITE ECHIDNA FOR THE TITLE...

KING OF THE HILL!

FISTFUL OF LETTERS

HEY J.F., THIS COLORING IS LOUSY! I NEED TO SEE CONTRASTS! I NEED TO FEEL THE MOOD! I NEED TO--
AH, YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO OUR COLORIST AND PRODUCTION ARTIST, FRANK GAGLIARDO..
J.F.G.
ART DEPT.
...OR, AS WE CALL HIM, "THE CREATURE."
TELL HIM WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT HIS LOUSY COLORING AND ALL THAT STUFF YOU NEEDED!
COLOR GUIDE
HOMINA-- HOMINA-- HOMINA...
ANYTHING ELSE REGARDING THE COLORS?
YEFF... I NEED A GLAFF OF OTTER TO WASH 'EM DOWN...
ART DEPT.

OFF PANEL **by Gallagher, Manak & Amash**

THIS JUST IN!

How did you like the return of Art Mawhinney and Rich Koslowski as our guest artists this issue? We were pleased as punch to have them work together again. More guest art follows for issues #30-32. "King Of The Hill" as Ken Penders writes and pencils with Harvo on the inks. And who shall be the regulars starting with #33 -- how about Steven Butler and Pam Eklund? If you read Sonic, then they are no strangers to your world. In terms of back-up stories, Manny Galan will be handing over penciling duties to Colleen Doran. Check out her debut next issue. With all these art personnel changes, where in the world is Andrew Pepoy in all this? He's pulling double duty as the regular inker of Sonic lead stories while still inking back-ups for Knuckles.

On another note, you may have seen Coming Soon teaser ads in our books and wondered what that meant. Now it can be said! It is for **SEGA** *Dreamcast's* **SONIC ADVENTURE** *debuting on September 9, 1999 in a store near you. We are currently working on a major comic adaptation encompassing four issues of* **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** *(#79-82). Two issues of* **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA** *(#33-34) and* **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL** *#12. This is the event we've all been waiting for. More on this in upcoming months.*

Catch you on the flip side!

J.F. GABRIE
Editor / Art Director

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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

Re: Knuckles The Echidna #25

Dear Knuckles.

I absolutely loved issue #25!!! Ever since that one episode, "Fathers and Sons"(in SUPER SONIC VS. HYPER KNUCKLES Special #1), I had high hopes of you and your father reuniting once again. I got a little teary eyed when you went up to hug him. This is truly a keepsake! I can't wait to see what surprises await us in KNUCKLES #50! I haven't gotten #26 yet, but from what I read from the preview, it looks good. It's about time there was some humor kicked in with all the butt kicking stuff. I was a little disappointed to find that Manny Galan will be leaving. Please send my regards to Mr. Galan and tell him that I'll miss him. He is such a good artist and I hope that wherever he goes that he'll be successful! I've got a question: Are you going to live in Haven now?

Kelly-Anne Murray (age 16)
Gig Harbor, WA

We're sorry to see Manny go as our regular artist, but at least his work still graces our covers.

Hey Knux.

Your 25th issue was great! It's a good thing you were reunited with your Dad. But I have one question: Why did the Brotherhood bathe you in Chaos Emerald energy if all Guardians have a link to the Chaos Emerald?

Ray Garcia (age 16)
Tucson, AZ

Though all Guardians have a connection to the Chaos Emerald, none of them actually possess powers of their own, unlike Knuckles who IS a living Chaos Emerald.

To the people who make Knuckles.

I just want to say congrats on the big 25th anniversary issue. It was slamming. A few questions if I may: 1) Is Charmy gone for good? 2) What happened to the Dark Legion after issue #24? 3) Is Espio related to Valez?

Rebecca Ortiz
Belleville, NJ

1) No. 2) Some of The Dark Legion numbers escaped with Dimitri. Many, however, were captured by the Echidna Security Team.

Dear Knuckles Team.

Terrific job on KNUCKLES #25!! Definitely the best issue yet. (Great cover, by the way, even if it isn't in silver!) I can't speak for everyone (I guess), but this is the issue I have been waiting for since the beginning. After this, I look forward to upcoming issues with even more enthusiasm. On a different note, I'm with Knuckles, I thought all Guardians had spiky knuckles like him. So then, when did the Guardians start wearing those pointy gloves, and why? And in that case, can all Guardians fly, or is that another one of Knuckles special qualities? Oh by the way, I'll be sorry to see Manny Galan go, he is a great artist! Anyway, keep up the good work. Knux fan to the end!

Gregory "Nitecrawler" Daniel
Portland, OR

More on the significance of the pointy gloves and Knuckles name in the Sonic Adventure crossover. All Guardians can fly by tapping into the power of the emerald. In Knuckles' case, he has that ability within himself.

Knuckles.

Congratulations on reaching issue #25! You're doing a numero uno job! I really loved it. A suggestion though, if I may, don't make future issues so mushy! (I felt like I was gonna hurl.) As a typical Knuckles fan, I have some questions: 1) Who came up with the idea for "Offpanel?" 2) Is Tobor ever going to reappear from that zone? Please print my whole address, in case fans all over the world want to write to me.

Manda Bucher
621 Forest Springs Drive
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
TifaCola@juno.com
NoCashews@juno.com

1) Offpanel (written and illustrated by Michael Gallagher and Dave Manak) is simply an extension of "The Adventures of Scott and Paul" strips in the early issues of Sonic. 2) You never know.

Well, that's it for this month. Thank you all for your comments. See you in thirty. And remember...

KEEP COOL!

Cover by Manny Galan and Ken Penders. Colors and separations by Darrin Moore and Heroic Age.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In one week: Sonic and The Freedom Fighters are back on Mobius and land in the newly re-christened Robotropolis. Before heading out to Knothole and rejoining the others, they try to accomplish a dangerous mission with the help of... Snively? Check out the story that had to be called "Business As Usual," written by Karl Bollers, FRY and Andrew Pepoy. Plus: Tales of the Great War, Part 4 by Ken Penders, Chris Allan and Jim Amash.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #76 on sale late August 1999!

Next Month: Knuckles faces off with his childhood rival, Monk, in a battle bringing a lifetime of grievances to bear! Of course, things go from bad to worse as an overlander named Hunter enters the scene. "King Of The Hill, Part One" written and penciled by Ken Penders with inks by Harvo. Also: Espio The Chameleon, Part One by Penders with art by Colleen Doran and Andrew Pepoy.

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #30 on sale early September 1999!

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Brooklyn, NY

JORDAN MARTY
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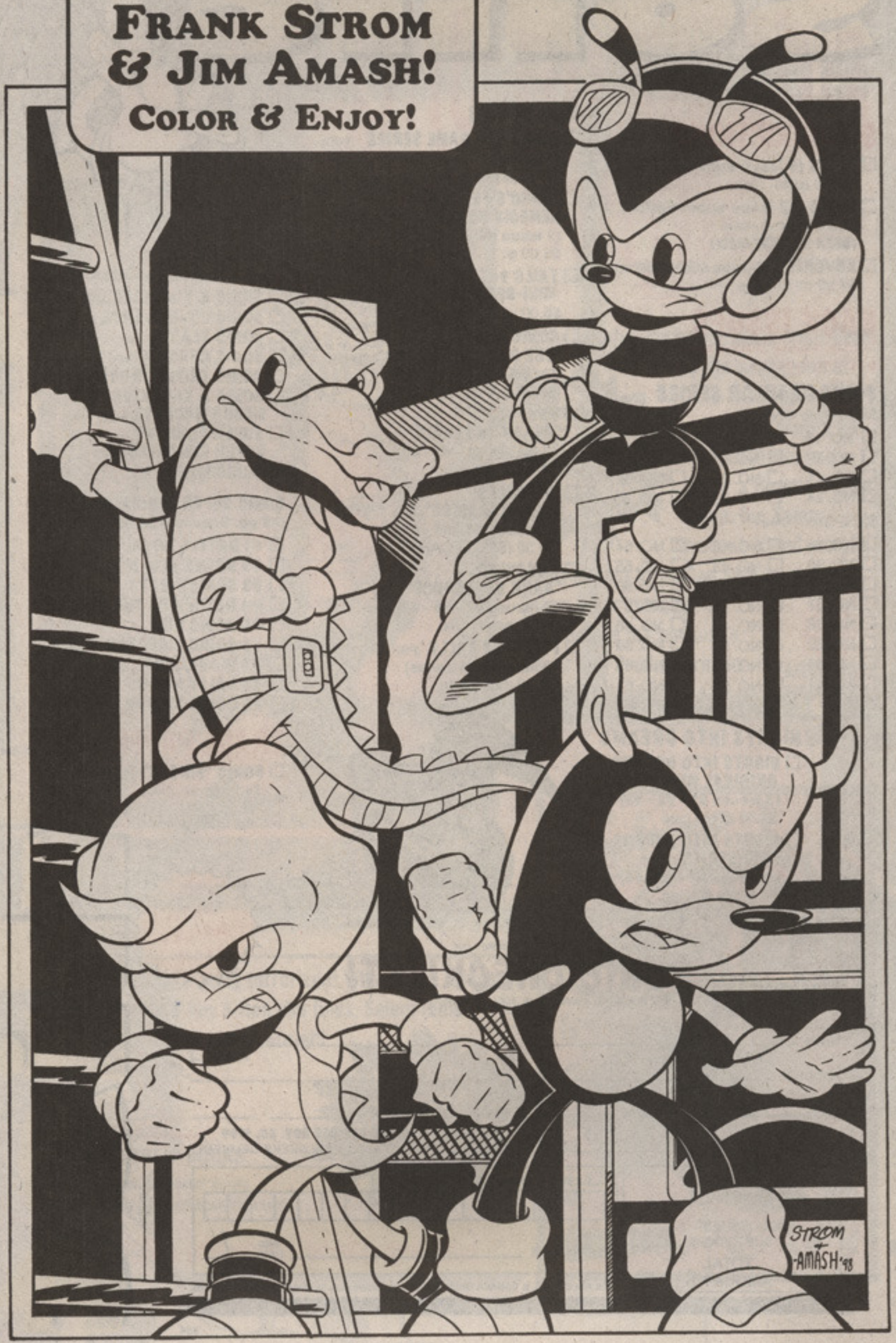

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